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(57) Abstract

A method of treating weight loss due to underlying disease in a patient, the method comprising administering to the patient an effective amount of an agent which reduces sympathetic nervous system activity. A method of treating weight loss due to underlying disease in a patient, the method comprising administering to the patient an effective amount of any one or more of the following: a compound which inhibits the effect of aldosterone such as an aldosterone antagonist; a chymase inhibitor; a cathepsin B inhibitor; a β receptor blocker; an imidazoline receptor antagonist; a centrally acting α receptor antagonist; a peripherally acting α receptor antagonist; a ganglion blocking agent; a drug that has an effect on cardiovascular reflexes and thereby reduces SNS activity such as an opiate; scopolamine; an endothelin receptor antagonist; and a xanthine oxidase inhibitor. The methods are particularly useful in treating cardiac cachexia.